

MEETING OF WENATCHEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE: ELECTORAL PROCESS

October 19, 2015

WENATCHEE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

129 S. Chelan Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER 5:30 PM

Chair Jean Speidel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Committee members present were: Susan Albert, Rufus Woods, Mark Urdahl, Carolyn Case, Karen Rutherford, Joe Morrison and Oralia Banuelos. Absent: Alma Chacon, Mario Cantu, Gustavo Montoya. City staff present: Executive Services Director Allison Williams, Community & Economic Development Director Steve King, and City Clerk Tammy Stanger.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 5, 2015, MEETING

Motion to approve by Joe Morrison. Motion seconded by Susan Albert.
Motion carried (7-0).

IV. PRESENTATION RE: VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS (Skip Moore, County Auditor)

County Auditor Skip Moore provided input and answered questions regarding voter demographics. Citizens provide only name, age, and gender when registering to vote. He has no data on ethnic origin or language preference. There are federal requirements to provide voter information in an alternative language; Wenatchee has not yet met the 15% threshold for that. Yakima has met the threshold.

There are approximately 18,000 registered voters in the city limits of Wenatchee, which currently has a population of approximately 33,000. About 20% of the population is voter age eligible but not registered to vote, which is typical around the state.

The County uses registered voters to determine precincts. Each precinct must contain not more than 1,500 registered voters, by state law. Every ten years the precincts are re-balanced based on the US census.

The county has numerous voting districts, such as school, hospital, sewer, mosquito. Within precincts, everyone votes on the same races. If City council districts are formed, Mr. Moore would like the district lines to fit existing precinct lines. Mr. Moore believes it would be difficult to determine where the non-registered voting age population resides and to draw district lines on that basis.

The most difficult age group to engage is 18 – 25; the critical issue is getting people to register to vote. Mr. Moore noted that voter registration increased when registration became available online, and that voter participation increased when vote by mail became the standard.

V. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Joe Morrison went through the Power Point presentation with the committee and the committee provided suggestions.

VI. NEXT STEPS

- Assignments: Joe Morrison and Rufus Woods will update the Power Point presentation. City staff will prepare a flyer for the upcoming public meeting events (one side will be in English and the other in Spanish). Oralia Banuelos will work on promoting the upcoming events with Rafael Aguilar on Spanish radio. She will also work with City staff to translate the flyer into Spanish. Susan Albert will check with student programs at the college about holding a public meeting at the college.

- Next meetings:

Public Meeting at the Museum on Monday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Public Meeting at the Senior Center on Friday, November 6 at 12:30 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jean Speidel adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF WENATCHEE
Tammy Stanger, City Clerk